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Sakharov swap not sought: Bonn

Paper says new East-West spy trade looms

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

HAMBURG, West Germany — The West German government yesterday denied a report that the Soviet Union was being pressured to include release of dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov from internal exile as part of a multination spy exchange.

Bild, the mass-circulation

newspaper known for its intelligence sources, said Tuesday the spy swap is being negotiated among the United States, the Soviet Union, West Germany and South Africa.

The newspaper said the U.S. was pressing the Soviet Union to at least release Sakharov from internal exile in Gorky if it will not allow him to leave the country.

Sakharov, "father" of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, was sent into exile in Gorky in 1980 for criticizing Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. It is not known whether he wants to leave the Soviet Union.

Wife in West

The Soviet government, which allowed Sakharov's wife, Yelena Bonner, to

travel to the West for medical treatment, was quoted by Bild April 9 as saying the atomic scientist would not be allowed to leave the country this year.

The U.S. also wants to exchange several agents jailed in the Soviet Union for Soviet spies held in the U.S., the newspaper said.

From South Africa, Moscow wants to obtain a naval officer, identified as only as Gerhardt, who was imprisoned there for betraying top secrets to the Soviet Union, Bild said.

It said East Germany in the proposed spy swap wants to retrieve Margarete Hoeke, a former secretary in the office of West German President Richard von Weizsaecker. She was jailed in last year's Bonn espionage scandal.

West Germany wants to recover five of its intelligence agents who are imprisoned in East Germany, Bild said.